

May 8, 2003

TO: Internal File

FROM: Dana Dean, P.E., Senior Reclamation Hydrologist

RE: Water Monitoring, Canyon Fuel Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, C/007/018-AM03B

SUMMARY:

Canyon Fuel Company submitted an amendment on April 4, 2003 to change some wording in Chapter 7 of the MRP and to make some changes to the water-monitoring plan. Soldier Canyon will discontinue the monitoring of two wells: one that is blocked (6-1), and one that Dugout Canyon monitors (10-1). Soldier Canyon will discontinue the monitoring of several sites that are not near any previously mined areas (5, 10, 23, 24, 32-1, and G-10). Soldier Canyon will resume the monitoring of those sites during the quarter production starts again.

Information found in the proposal is adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the regulations.

The Division should approve the amendment and incorporate it into the current MRP.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

Analysis:

Groundwater Monitoring

Water levels in Well 6-1 were stable at a depth of approximately 425 feet below the collar between August 1991 and 1993. On June 3, 1994, the Permittee found the well dry and plugged at a depth of 470 feet. All monitoring since then has shown the same dry, plugged situation. Because this well is yielding no new information, Soldier Canyon will discontinue the monitoring of Well 6-1, starting with the second quarter of 2003.

Well 10-2 is the same as Dugout Well GW-10-2. Soldier Canyon will discontinue the monitoring of Well 10-2, starting with the second quarter of 2003. Dugout Canyon will continue to monitor it.

Soldier Canyon will not monitor Well 32-1, or Springs 5, 10, 23, and 24 from the second quarter of 2003 until the quarter in which production resumes at the mine. These sites are located away from previously mined areas and the Permittee has recorded sufficient baseline information.

Surface Water Monitoring

Soldier Canyon will not monitor Stream G-10 from the second quarter of 2003 until the quarter in which production resumes at the mine. This site is located away from previously mined areas and the Permittee has recorded sufficient baseline information. Oil and grease from mining operations is not likely to contaminate stream site G-10 because of its location, therefore the Permittee will not measure oil and grease there when monitoring resumes.

Findings:

Information found in the proposal is adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should approve the amendment and incorporate it into the current MRP